NUMB. LIV.

The SPECTATOR.

——Strenua nos exercet inertia. Hor.

Wednesday, May 2. 1711.

THE following Letter being the first that I have received from the learned University of *Cambridge*, I could not but do my self the Honour of publishing it. It gives an Account of a new Sect of Philosophers which has arose in that famous Residence of Learning; and is, perhaps, the only Sect this Age is likely to produce.

'Mr. SPECTATOR, *Cambridge, April* 26.

'BElieving you to be an universal Encourager of 'liberal Arts and Sciences, and glad of any 'information from the learned World, I thought 'an Account of a Sect of Philosophers very frequent 'among us, but not taken Notice of, as far as I can 'remember, by any Writers either ancient or modern, would not be unacceptable to you. The Philosophers of this Sect are in the Language of our University call'd *Loungers*. I am of Opinion, that, as in many other things, so likewise in this, the Ancients have been defective; *viz.* in mentioning no Philosophers of this Sort. Some indeed will affirm that they are a kind of Peripateticks, because we see them continually walking about. But I would have these Gentlemen consider, that though the ancient Peripateticks walk'd much, yet they wrote much also; (witness, to the Sorrow of this Sect, *Aristotle* and others): Whereas it is notorious that most of our Professors never lay out a Farthing either in Pen, Ink, or Paper. Others are for deriving them from *Diogenes*, because several of the leading Men of the Sect have a great deal of the cynical Humour in them, and delight much in Sun-shine. But then again, *Diogenes* was content to have his constant Habitation in a narrow Tub; whilst our Philosophers are so far from being of his Opinion, that it's Death to them to be confin'd within the Limits of a good handsome convenient Chamber but for Half an Hour. Others there are, who from the Clearness of their Heads deduce the Pedigree of *Loungers* from that great Man (I think it was either *Plato* or *Socrates*) who after all his Study and Learning profess'd, That all he then knew was, that he knew nothing. You easily see this is but a shallow Argument, and may be soon confuted.

'I have with great Pains and Industry made my 'Observations from Time to Time upon these 'Sages; and having now all Materials ready, am 'compiling a Treatise, wherein I shall set forth the 'Rise and Progress of this famous Sect, together 'with their Maxims, Austerities, Manner of living, &c. Having prevail'd with a Friend who designs shortly to publish a new Edition of *Diogenes Laertius*, to add this Treatise of mine by way 'of Supplement; I shall now, to let the World 'see what may be expected from me (first begging 'Mr. SPECTATOR's Leave that the World may see it) briefly touch upon some of my chief Observations, and then subscribe my self your humble 'Servant. In the first Place I shall give you two 'or three of their Maxims: The fundamental 'one, upon which their whole System is built, is 'this, *viz.* That Time being an implacable Enemy 'to and Destroyer of all things, ought to be paid 'in his own Coin, and be destroy'd and murder'd without Mercy by all the Ways that can 'be invented. Another favourite Saying of 'theirs is, That Business was design'd only for 'Knaves, and Study for Blockheads. A Third 'seems to be a ludicrous one, but has a great 'Effect upon their Lives; and is this, That the 'Devil is at Home. Now for their Manner of 'Living: And here I have a large Field to expatiate in; but I shall reserve Particulars for my 'intended Discourse, and now only mention one or 'two of their principal Exercises. The elder Proficients employ themselves in inspecting *mores hominum multorum*, in getting acquainted with all 'the Signs and Windows in the Town. Some 'are arriv'd to so great Knowledge, that they 'can tell every time any Butcher kills a Calf, 'every time any old Woman's Cat is in the 'Straw; and a thousand other Matters as important. One antient Philosopher contemplates two 'or three Hours every Day over a Sun-Dial; and 'is true to the Dial.

——As the Dial to the Sun
Although it be not shone upon.

'Our younger Students are content to carry their 'Speculations as yet no farther than Bowling-

'Greens,

'Green, Billiard-Tables, and such like Places: 'This may serve for a Sketch of my Design; in 'which I hope I shall have your Encouragement.

I am, Sir, Yours.

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I must be so just as to observe I have formerly seen of this Sect at our other University; tho' not distinguished by the Appellation which the learned Historian, my Correspondent, reports they bear at *Cambridge*. They were ever looked upon as a People that impaired themselves more by their strict Application to the Rules of their Order, than any other Students whatever. Others seldom hurt themselves, any further than to gain weak Eyes and sometimes Head-Aches; but these Philosophers are seized all over with a general Inability, Indolence, and Weariness, and a certain Impatience of the Place they are in, with an Heaviness in removing to another.

The *Lowngers* are satisfied with being merely Part of the Number of Mankind, without distinguishing themselves from amongst them. They may be said rather to suffer their Time to pass, than to spend it, without Regard to the past, or Prospect of the future. All they know of Life is only the present Instant, and do not taste even that. When one of this Order happens to be a Man of Fortune, the Expence of his Time is transferred to his Coach and Horses, and his Life is to be measured by their Motion, not his own Enjoyments or Sufferings. The chief Entertainment one of these Philosophers can possibly propose to himself, is to get a Relish of Dress: This, methinks, might diversify the Person he is weary of (his own dear self) to himself. I have known these two Amusements make one of these Philosophers make a tollerable Figure in the World; with Variety of Dresses in publick Assemblies in Town, and quick Motion of his Horses out of it, now to *Bath*, now to *Tunbridge*, then to *New-Market*, and then to *London*, he has in Process of Time brought it to pass, that his Coach and his Horses have been mentioned in all those Places. When the *Lowngers* leave an Academick Life, and instead of this more elegant Way of appearing in the polite World, retire to the Seats of their Ancestors, they usually join a Pack of Dogs, and employ their Days in defending their Poultry from Foxes: I do not know any other Method that any of this Order has ever taken to make a Noise in the World; but I shall enquire into such about this Town as have, arriv'd at the Dignity of being *Lowngers* by the Force of natural Parts, without having ever seen an University; and send my Correspondent, for the Embellishment of his Book, the Names and History of those who pass their Lives without any Incidents at all; and how they shift Coffee-houses and Chocolate-houses from Hour to Hour, to get over the insupportable Labour of doing nothing.

At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality.
For the Benefit of Mr. KEENE.
By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, To-Morrow being Thursday, the 3d of May, will be presented, The Tragedy of Hamlet Prince of Denmark: Written by the immortal Shakespear. The Part of Hamlet to be performed by Mr. Wilks, the King Mr. Keene, Horatio Mr. Mills, Laertes Mr. Powel, the Ghost Mr. Booth, the Fop Mr. Bowen, Grave-Digger Mr. Johnson, the Queen Mrs. Knight; and the Part of Ophelia by Mrs. Bradshaw.

This Play is sold by Jacob Tonson, at Shakespear's Head over against Catharine-street in the Strand.

Mr. Fert Dancing-Master, who keeps his School in Compton-street Soho, over-against St. Ann's Church back-door, where he teaches on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, gives Notice to the Publick, That at the Desire of several Gentlemen in the City, he teaches on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the George in Finch-lane Threadneedle-street, near the Royal-Exchange: He likewise teaches abroad, and plays very well on the Violin.

A curious Collection of Pictures (most of which are lately come from Abroad) to be sold by Auction on Friday the 4th of May, at 10 a-Clock in the Forenoon, at the Cross-Keys next Door but one to Mr. Thwaite's at the Fountain Tavern in the Strand, where they are to be seen from this Morning to the Time of Sale, and Catalogues to be delivered out as above, as also at Mr. Charles Lillie's, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand.

The following Proposals are offered to all such as are desirous to make Provision for themselves and their Children, &c. and are calculated for the Ease and Benefit of all Persons concerned therein, being founded on such a Basis as cannot fail of procuring their Increase, and render them lasting and beneficial: The Charge of Entrance being small, and Contribution of every Person what they best approve of, without any further Charge or Incumbrance. The Terms being easy and the Advantage plain, needs little Recommendation. The great Use it may be of towards a Provision for those that are or may be in Want, will be a sufficient Inducement to all Persons to give them Incouragement.

Annual Proposals to Parents for the Provision of themselves and their Children, &c. Wherein the Contribution of every Person is to be what they best approve of, and by renewing their Subscription only once in a Years, cannot fail of securing to themselves or Nominees a sufficient Provision.

Annual Proposals to Shopkeepers and Tradesmen, &c. For a Provision on Loss by Fire, and for Relief of decayed Tradesmen, &c. Wherein every Contributor, by paying 6 s. annually, becomes intitled to receive the Value of 100 l. Loss sustained by Fire; and if no Loss by Fire happen, then such Contributor, being by Decay of Trade or other Misfortune brought to Poverty and Want, to be relieved out of the Joynt-Stock of this Society.

Proposals to Merchants and Owners of Ships, &c. For a Provision for such whose Ships or Effects are lost at Sea, or taken by the Enemy.

Attendance is given at Bourn's Coffee-house in Finch-lane, Cornhill, from 10 to 12, and from 2 till 4, where Proposals are to be had.

A most incomparable Paste for the Hands, far exceeding any thing ever yet in Print: It makes them delicately white, slecke and plump, fortifies them against the soothing Heat of the Fire or Sun, and sharpness of the Wind. A Hand cannot be so spoil'd but the Use of it will recover them. Sold only at Mr. Allcraft's, Toy-shop, over-against the Royal-Exchange, at 4 s. 6 d. a Pot, with Directions: Where is sold the excellent German Powder for the Scurvy in the Gums and Teeth, which by only scouring them every Morning, whitens and fastens the Teeth to a Miracle, at 1 s. a Scale.

One of the most sovereign Things in the whole Compass of Physick, to preserve from Infection by corrupt Air or contagious Diseases, and to keep the Body in a good State of Health and Vigour, &c. is Stoughton's great Cordial Elixir, (as hath been always particularly mention'd in the Bills with it, and as appears by a Certificate from the West-Indies, manifestly saving the Lives of many; and another very lately from Sweden, where great Numbers drink it, and not one who took it (to the Person's best Knowledge and Observation) has had the Disease. 'Tis to be taken in a Morning as they direct, or once more in a Day with the Addition (for this purpose only) of a few Drops of Lemmon-Juice or Sevil-Orange. This Elixir is famous throughout Europe, and drank by most Gentlemen in their Wine as a Bitter instead of Wormwood, which dulls the Brain and destroys the Sight: This makes the best Purl in Beer or Ale, Purl Royal in Sack, and the bitter Draught in a Minute. I can say no more here, but refer to the Bills with it. 'Tis now drank by most of the Officers in the Army, and taken to Sea by many Commanders; and great Quantities have been sent lately to Holland, Ireland, Sweden, and Moscow, Scotland, Newcastle, &c. Prepared only by R. Stoughton, Apothecary, at the Unicorn in Southwark, who hath set it forth almost these 20 Years, and is now sold at some one Bookseller's, Shopkeeper's, or Coffee-house in most Cities and great Towns in Europe. Price 1 s. each Bottle.

Famous Drops for Hypocondriack Melancholy: Which effectually cure on the Spot, by rectifying the Stomach and Blood, cleansing them from all Impurities, and giving a new Turn to their Ferment, attenuating all viscous tenacious Humours (which make the Head heavy, clog the Spirits, confuse the Mind, and cause the deepest Melancholly, with direful Views and black Reflections) comforting the Brain and Nerves, composing the hurried Thoughts, and introducing bright lively Ideas and pleasant Briskness, instead of dismal Apprehensions and dark Incumbrance of the Soul, setting the Intellectuals at Liberty to act with Courage, Serenity and freely Chearfulness, and causing a visible diffusive Joy to reign in the Room of uneasy Doubts, Fears, &c. for which it may be truly esteem'd infallible. Price 3 s. 6 d. a Bottle, with Directions. Sold only at Mr. Bell's Bookseller at the Cross-Keys and Bible in Cornhill near the Royal-Exchange.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken in; as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.

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